

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

SEISMIC FUNDING TO MAKE ÉCOLE ROBB ROAD STUDENTS SAFER

COMOX – The Province has approved \$1.2 million for the first phase of seismic upgrades and an additional \$600,000 for renovations to École Robb Road elementary, Comox Valley MLA Stan Hagen announced today.

“École Robb Road is one of two French immersion schools in the Comox Valley district and is located in the heart of Comox,” said Hagen. “This project will not only make the school safer, it will increase and improve classroom space for the staff to teach and the students to learn.”

The first phase of this project will seismically upgrade the annex. The annex, a separate facility from the main school building, is the current location of the Learning Resource Centre. The seismic work on the annex includes:

- improving connections between the roof, walls and foundations
- reinforcing the concrete masonry walls and foundations
- adding plywood to strengthen wood frame walls

The École Robb Road elementary facilities also accommodate the Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) school Au Coeur de L’île in a temporary lease agreement. Coinciding with the upgrades, the annex will be renovated by converting the Learning Resource Centre into five classrooms. The new classrooms will provide more instructional space at the school and improve accommodation for Au Coeur de L’île students.

“Safety is a top priority for this government and we want all students, staff and community members to feel safe and comfortable in our schools,” said Education Minister Shirley Bond. “The work on this school is part of a \$1.5-billion program to seismically upgrade B.C. schools – the most comprehensive seismic plan ever by a B.C. government.”

The construction is scheduled over four months, with completion set for this September. The remainder of the school will be seismically upgraded as part of a future second phase.

“It is great news that the first phase of this seismic project is moving forward,” said Comox Valley board chair Janice Proudfoot. “The upgrades and renovations will provide more classroom space and ensure students and staff a safer place to learn and teach.”

“We are pleased with the improvements happening at Robb Road elementary school,” said CSF board chair Marie Bourgeois. “The work will serve Au Coeur de L’île well during the upcoming school year and will help the CSF move forward.”

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Since 2001, the Province has invested \$3.3 million in capital funding in the Comox Valley school district for two renovations and one school addition, including the conversion of École Robb Road from a middle school to an elementary school in 2001. In addition, the district received \$4.9 million to seismically upgrade Highland secondary, a project that is nearing completion.

During the same period, the Province spent over \$1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovations projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than \$2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects.

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